

August 21, 2008

### **OBEY IN HAYWARD FOR GRAND OPENING OF THE NORTH WOODS COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC**

HAYWARD, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Hayward today for the grand opening of the North Woods Community Dental Clinic. Last year, Obey secured over \$200,000 to help expand services at the Rural Health Dental Clinic in Hayward, which was acquired by the North Woods Community Health Center this year.

Since 1996, Obey, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, has secured over \$2 million to help expand dental services in Northwest Wisconsin.

"We're facing a 'silent epidemic' of oral disease in this country because of a lack of available dental care, especially in rural areas and for the most vulnerable among us. Children have died because of infections brought on by the absence of dental services," said Obey. "That's why we've made improving access to dental care a priority, and why dental clinics, like the North Woods Community Dental Clinic, are so important. They help provide affordable dental care to thousands of Northwestern Wisconsin residents who would otherwise find it difficult or impossible to reach a dentist they could afford."

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for every American without medical insurance, three lack dental insurance, and there are 47 million Americans without health insurance today, Obey pointed out. "To put that in perspective," Obey added, "for what the government has spent on the war in Iraq, we could have provided affordable healthcare to every person in America."

The new clinic, located at 15910 West Company Lake Road, is a completely renovated space with the resources to treat four patients simultaneously and room to grow in the future. The clinic will continue to provide comprehensive preventive and restorative dental services, including exams, x-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, dentures, and limited endodontia - such as root canals - and oral surgery. Two mobile dental units will also allow the clinic to provide

preventive services during onsite visits to area schools, nursing homes, and WIC clinics.

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